



## Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet

Admiral Patrick M. Walsh

Visit to JS KASHIMA

Pearl Harbor Naval Base

08 June 2010

Admiral Tokumaru, newly commissioned officers of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force... Konnichiwa and Aloha... Welcome to Hawaii.

It is an honor to be a guest aboard *KASHIMA* and to have the opportunity to speak to you here in Pearl Harbor. Today, in this harbor, are powerful images of an armada of friends, who stand side-by-side. The youthful faces and crisp array of uniforms remind us of what we treasure; we treasure those who serve and those who stand with us as friends. I am proud of the relationship and bond between the U.S. Navy and with the JMSDF and I am especially grateful for this experience today. We are truly fortunate for the unique friendship we share between our navies and our families.

You have taken a challenging road to get here. It started the day you enrolled in the National Defense Academy or commenced your undergraduate studies at a four-year university...to the year you spent at the Maritime Officer Candidate School in Etajima... to the day you boarded the kata boats, rowed to the *KASHIMA*, and set sail for your trip around the world.

The challenges you have endured along the way tested the mind – through rigorous discipline, strict schedules, and demanding academics...and the body – with strenuous physical training, five-thousand meter swims, climbing Mt. Fuji... You are an exceptional group of talented young people. The well-rounded education, training, and discipline you have gained are exactly what we need in a world that is complex, constantly changing, and very unpredictable.

While a large body of water separates our two countries by a vast distance, that same body of water binds us with close ties as mariners. It is one continuous body of water...unlike land that we fence, put up borders, boundaries, and protect...we share the



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sea. By its very nature, it requires a collective approach for the shared benefit and responsibilities for the sea.

We use the word “shipmate” to describe our relationship. Together we come from the traditions and culture uniquely shared by mariners of the open ocean. Ultimately, on the appointed day and hour, we cast off all physical and symbolic lines that tie us to solid ground, get underway, and with a sense of independence, set sail over the horizon beyond sight and the comforts of our respective societies and into an uncertain world. The sea forces us to mature early in our lives because we must make decisions every day about people and resources. To succeed in this sometimes stark and harsh environment, leaders must draw upon the capabilities, talents, experiences, and creative energy of everyone with them. To succeed, leaders must create ‘one team.’

As fellow naval officers, we share the sea at an extraordinary moment in history. The oceans cover 75 percent of the earth and connect the nations of the world by supporting 90 percent of the world’s trade. This shipment of goods, commodities, and fuel makes us dependent on the sea for many aspects of our daily lives and increasingly reliant on international partners for collective maritime security.

In the Asia-Pacific region, we are witnessing a period of increased demand for resources, increased competition, and a period when the demand for access and freedom of movement is important not only to our own nation but also to the interests of the international community as well. In other words...now, more than ever before, activities that threaten the freedom of the seas no longer affect simply one nation, but rather the vital interests of the global community.

The United States values its partnerships as key to prosperity for all nations in the global economy. This is particularly true of the U.S.-Japan alliance; today, our Navy-to-Navy



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relationship is more relevant and important than ever before and it is a bond characterized by maturity, respect, and cooperation.

Our navies have so many opportunities to learn together, train together, and serve together. JMSDF officers attend the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. American Naval Officers serve as instructors at Etajima or attend graduate studies at Japanese universities. Our midshipmen conduct foreign exchange cruises in the summertime. Through the Personnel Exchange Program, officers in both our navies have the opportunity to work closely with each other for two to three years at a time.

On any given day, our two fleets are cooperating in some way. Our navies participate in bilateral and multilateral exercises such as ANNUALEX and RIMPAC. Our ships conduct ballistic missile defense tests and anti-submarine warfare training here in the Hawaiian operating area. Last year, the JMSDF joined the U.S. and India for MALABAR '09, and this year, the amphibious ship KUNISAKI is participating in Pacific Partnership for the first time. Over the past nine years, the JMSDF has provided valuable replenishment services to coalition forces in support of OPERATION Enduring Freedom. Together with several partner nations, the U.S. and Japan remain committed to the counter-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden.

As commissioned officers of the JMSDF, you are entering a world in which vital interests link Japan and the U.S. to each other and to the rest of the world. Today, information and technology have connected our economies, but that means a crisis will not limit or confine itself to simple borders or coordinates; they are transnational in character.

Transnational threats continue to be a growing problem. Even though the U.S. and Japan operate together in the Pacific, we find ourselves working hand-in-hand with other international partners to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. The JMSDF have played a particularly important role in the international counter-piracy effort, providing



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valuable surface and maritime air patrol reconnaissance support. With over 500 JMSDF officers and Sailors deployed to the Gulf of Aden, this is a valuable opportunity for multilateral cooperation and interoperability while conducting a critical mission.

The American and Japanese maritime strategies share a cornerstone principle of cooperation with navies around the world. We both recognize the importance of establishing international partnerships, deepening friendships through expanded information-sharing, and conducting joint bilateral and multilateral exercises to enhance interoperability. It is this same principle that has given *KASHIMA* the opportunity to visit several nations during your overseas training cruise around the world.

You have an exciting voyage ahead of you. Not only will you learn fundamental tactical skills such as leadership, seamanship, and navigation, you will also learn public diplomacy. You are ambassadors representing your great nation... you will see many new places, be exposed to different cultures, meet your counterparts in foreign navies, and make new friends. I am certain that while it might be your first time in some of the countries that you will visit, it likely will not be your last. The sea service is one that travels the world – this experience unites us because as Naval Officers we will see each other many times in the course of our careers.

You are the next generation of naval leaders. When I think of the bright, innovative young people graduating each year from Etajima and Annapolis, or their international counterparts, I see a future full of promise and potential. All over the world, the midshipmen and ensigns of today will become tomorrow's Fleet Commanders or Chiefs of Navy. The international friendships you make while in the service of your country will transcend borders and bring the navies and the nations of the world closer.

It is paramount that together, we continue to pass from one generation to the next, the importance of relationships in our security framework. International friendships require



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trust, time, and effort to establish information-sharing networks, to develop common operating procedures and rules, or to practice and improve interoperability. We should continue our appreciation for bilateral and multilateral cooperation through symposiums, ship visits, exchange programs, and exercises.

If the infrastructure of trust, mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation is not already in place when a crisis occurs, the relationship will not be strong enough to overcome the difficulties that arise. We cannot wait for a crisis to force us to collaborate, train, and operate with other nations. Just as one must fortify his house in good weather and learn what to do in case bad weather ever occurs; we must start building and strengthening partnerships in times of calm so that we are ready when tested.

I would like to take this time to congratulate you on your commissioning and your excellent career choice. Your time in the JMSDF will be a rewarding, fruitful experience. You have chosen an honorable profession at a critical time in the world's history. As the next generation of naval leaders, have the duty, first and foremost, to prevent war.

In closing, I would like to share with you a thought from Admiral Arleigh Burke, the 15<sup>th</sup> Chief of Naval Operations whose wisdom still applies today. Although he is the namesake of the U.S. Navy's guided-missile destroyer – Admiral Burke believed that the primary purpose of these warships was to use them to prevent wars. When he retired after 42 distinguished years in the Navy, he remarked:

“For in this modern world, the instruments of warfare are not solely for waging war. Far more importantly, they are the means for controlling peace. Naval officers must therefore understand not only how to fight a war, but how to use the tremendous power which they operate to sustain a world of liberty and justice, without unleashing the powerful instruments of destruction and chaos that they have at their command.”



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The U.S. and Japan have a genuine bond of trust that withstands difficult storms with patience and respect. Our navy-to-navy partnership is a strong team and serves as a model and example for how nations can work together to prevent conflict.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

*Domo arigato* and *Mahalo* for the opportunity to speak with you. I look forward to your questions.